

Applicant(s): G. Windel
Application No.: 10/088,717
Examiner: M. Spisich

Remarks

Claims 17-39 are pending in the application and are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 17, 27, 28, and 35 have been amended and claim 39 has been added. Applicant believes the claim amendment and accompanying remarks herein serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 27-31 and 33-37 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner further stated that in addition to the above, Applicant may wish to recite that "at least two of the plurality of strip wash elements are located in cross-section of the device perpendicular to the axis of the shaft."

Initially, claims 27, 28, and 35 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly Applicant submits that these claims are in condition of allowance.

As claims 36 and 37 depend from claim 35, these dependent claims necessarily include all the elements of their base claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the same reasons.

Additionally, claim 17 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, reciting "at least two of the plurality of strip wash elements are located in cross-section of the device perpendicular to the axis of the shaft." Accordingly Applicant submits that this claim is now in condition of allowance.

Furthermore, as claims 18-26, 29-34, and 38 depend from claim 17, these dependent claims necessarily include all the elements of their base claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the same reasons.

35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 Rejection.

Claims 17, 20, 21, 23-25 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being

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anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,815,185 to Crofts. ("Crofts"). Claims 26 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crofts. Claims 18, 19, and 22 were rejected as being unpatentable over Crofts in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,356 to Zigerlig. Claim 22 was rejected as being unpatentable over Crofts in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,813,076 to Belanger et al. Applicant submits that these rejections are now moot in view of the above discussion and amendments to claim 17.

New Claim

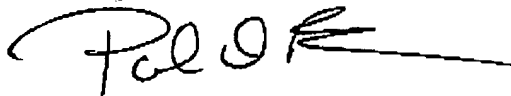
Applicant has added new claim 39. Applicant submits that new claim 39 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If any questions remain regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Fees \$50 under 37 CFR 1.16(i) for one excessive claim and \$400 under 37 CFR 1.16(h) for two excessive independent claims are believed due and a Fee Transmittal Sheet with payment by credit card is submitted concurrently herewith. However, please charge any required fee (or credit any overpayments of fees) to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket No. 740-X02-011).

Respectfully submitted,



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